

(c) MTNL has taken following steps to improve the service of Dolphin:

- (i) Network optimization is being carried out to further improve the coverage.
- (ii) Adjoining towns viz. Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon and Noida are also being covered.
- (iii) Roaming facilities are being extended to all the places within the country as well as abroad.
- (iv) Pre-paid service is going to be introduced soon.
- (v) Adequate number of franchisees have been engaged to market the service and enhance customer base.
- (vi) Special promotional marketing schemes are being introduced from time-to-time to improve customer base.
- (vii) Aggressive marketing and focused media campaign has been undertaken to popularise the Dolphin brand and improve the customer base.

Satellite mobile communication Policy

1218. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to introduce a new Statellite Mobile communication Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features of the new policy;

(c) by when, it is likely to be implemented;

(d) how many companies have shown interest in this new scheme; and

(e) what would be the benefits of this New Satellite Mobile Phone Policy and whether the tariff would be cheaper than the existing tariff and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government have announced policy for grant of licences for Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) Service on 2nd November, 2001. The salient points of the Policy are given in the statement (See below)

(d) After the recent announcement of GMPCS policy, no new company has approached DoT (Department of Telecommunications) for grant of GMPCS licence so far. However, Letters of Intent for grant of GMPCS licence have been earlier issued to two companies viz., M/s. ASC Enterprises Limited and M/S. Shyam ACeS (India) Private Limited, which are not yet converted into licence agreement.

(e) With GMPCS Service the subscriber will be able to communicate with rest of the world from anywhere in the country wherever the service is permitted, including remote, inaccessible or hilly areas. The tariff for the service will be decided by the Licensee as per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Tariff Orders/Regulations/Directions issued from time to time.

Statement

1. The licences for operation of GMPCS Service in India shall be issued on non-exclusive basis subject to clearance of each proposal from security angle.

2. The licence shall be issued for a period of 20 years and further extendable by 10 years.

3. The applicant has to be an Indian registered company. Total foreign equity in the company shall not exceed 49% at any time during the entire licence period.

4. Gateway Earth Station alongwith control and monitoring facility for all the licensed systems shall be located in India. From the security point of view, the operation and maintenance of the Gateways shall be with the Authority/Organisation designated by the Government. GMPCS operators will provide monitoring facilities and security features as desired by security agencies.

5. The Licensee Company will be required to pay one time entry Fee of Rs. one crore and furnish a financial bank guarantee of equal amount, prior to signing of the licence agreement. In addition to the Entry Fee, the Licensee shall also pay License Fee @10% of 'Adjusted Gross Revenue'.

6. Network connectivity and interconnection between various networks shall be mutually negotiated and finalized between service providers subject to any regulation issued from time to time by TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India) under TRAI Act, 1997 as amended from time to time.

7. The proposal for GMPCS licence is to be submitted in a prescribed Application Form. The terms and conditions of licence agreement and Application Form for the service is available from Department of Telecom (DoT) or can be downloaded from Dot Web Site: www.dotindia.com.

Telephone Allotment against M.P. Quota

†1219. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that timely approval is not accorded to the telephone connections released against M.P. quota;

(b) the number of such connections pending with the GM (communication) Farrukhabad Division in U.P. beneficiary-wise;

(c) the reasons for the delay in providing these connections; and

(d) by when, these pending connections would be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. The telephones from the quota of Hon'ble MPs are sanctioned on top priority and in time.

(b) Twenty cases of out of turn sanctions of telephones from MP quota are pending as on 22.11.2001. Details are given in Statement (See below).

(c) Three cases are pending due to subscriber's reasons & rest of Seventeen cases are pending due to area being technically not feasible.

(d) Efforts are afoot to provide all pending telephone connections by 31.3.2002.

Statement

Pending out of turn sanctions of telephones from MP quota as on 22.11.2001 in Farrukhabad SSA

S. No.	Name of Hon'ble MP	Name of Party	Address
1	Shri Chaudhary Harmohan Singh (RS)	Sh Yadunath Singh	Kannauj
2	Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh (LS)	Sh Zaheer Mohd. Khan	Farrukhabad
3	Shri Akhilesh Singh Yadav (LS)	Sh Javeer Singh	Kannauj
4	Shri Akhilesh Singh Yadav (LS)	Sh Rajeh Baboo Yadav	Kannauj

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.